

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response is made to the most recent rejection dated March 31, 2009. Claims 20-37 are pending in this application. Claims 20 and 29 (and by implication, the remaining dependent claims) stand rejected under 35 USC §102 (e), as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over the Globerman reference, U.S. Patent Number 5,776,161 (“Globerman.”) With the amendments made herein, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Now, the claims require that the connectors are placed generally along the stent circumference. Clear support for this amendment can be seen from, for instance, the connector 8 in Figure 4, and the disclosure associated therewith. As previously identified by the applicants, the respective orientation of the springs and the connectors cannot be found in the Globerman reference. The amendment made to the claims merely clarifies the orientation of these members as embodied in the Specification. Since Globerman is distinguished, the provisions of 35 USC § 102 are inapposite. Moreover, since Globerman does not even begin to suggest the respective orientation of the springs and connectors, in no way can Globerman render the claims obvious under 35 USC § 103. Accordingly, claims 20-37 are patentable over the cited art.

Once the Examiner has indicated that he agrees that the cited art has been traversed, the Applicants will entertain the concept of filing a terminal disclaimer to overcome the outstanding double patenting rejection.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure statement is filed herewith.

If the Examiner is interested in speeding the prosecution of the present application, he is encouraged to contact the Applicants’ attorney at the below listed contacts.

Serial No. 10/791,345
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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/JJI0049USCON/PAC for any such fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Paul A. Coletti/
Paul A. Coletti
Reg. No. 32,019

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-2815
pcolett@its.jnj.com
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